

Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church

Sunday Sermon

Date: April 05, 2020

Text: Zechariah 13:1

Scripture Reading: Zechariah 12:10-14 to 13:1

Subject: Fountain Opened for Repentant Remnant

In the last message, we examined the 12th chapter of Zechariah. Prophetically, we saw the coming siege of Jerusalem by Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal with his armies in verses 1-3; we saw how the LORD, in that day will strengthen Judah and give them deliverance against the Gog and his armies in verses 4 through 9. We also saw how the LORD will pour out the spirit of grace on the inhabitants of Jerusalem causing them to mourn and repent of their sins in verses 10 through 14. Then we come to the chapter thirteen which will tell us the repentant remnant being cleansed for their sin and uncleanness. I believe we must consider this first verse of chapter 13 as part of the context from chapter 12, verses 10-14. In those verses we see the LORD pouring on the nation the spirit of grace and supplications – and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced and they shall mourn for him. Let's read this passage, then chapter 13, verse 1.

Zechariah 12:10-14 (KJV) *And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. **11** In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon. **12** And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan apart, and their wives apart; **13** The family of the house of Levi apart, and their wives apart;*

the family of Shimei apart, and their wives apart; 14 All the families that remain, every family apart, and their wives apart.

Zechariah 13:1 (KJV) *In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.*

As we know, the Bible was not written with chapter and verse divisions. The chapter divisions commonly used today were developed by Stephen Langton, an Archbishop of Canterbury about 1227 AD. The Wycliffe English Bible of 1382 was the first Bible to use this chapter pattern. Since the Wycliffe Bible, nearly all Bible translations have followed Langton's chapter divisions.

So we see IN THAT DAY there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.

*There is a fountain filled with blood,
Drawn from Immanuel's veins,
And sinners plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains—(by Cooper)*

When the nation of Israel rejected the Messiah at Jesus' first coming, the nation was temporarily set aside and scattered into all nations. They will remain scattered until the fulness of the Gentiles is come in. After all the gentiles have been called out, the LORD will gather Israel from all the nations where they are scattered and bring them into their own land. After Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal with all his armies have been destroyed (described in chapter 12, verses 4 through 9 and in Ezekiel 38 & 39, we read this:

Ezekiel 39:21-22 (KJV) *And I will set my glory among the heathen, and all the heathen shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid upon them. 22 So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God **from that day and forward.***

So a fountain is opened for them. Their guilt is pardoned; all their unrighteousness and iniquity is taken away. The fountain has been opened for them for sin and uncleanness. The Redeemer has turned away ungodliness from Jacob. This is the day when the nation is saved!

Romans 11:26-27 (KJV) *And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: 27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.*

The prophetic Word is filled with promises concerning this future cleansing of the nation.

Isaiah 59:20-21 (KJV) *And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD. 21 As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever.*

Ezekiel 20:33-38 (KJV) *As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you: 34 And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a*

*stretched out arm, and with fury poured out. **35 And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face. 36 Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord GOD. 37 And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant: 38 And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.***

And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face. 36 Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord GOD. –This is the only place in the holy scriptures that this expression occurs.

“Wilderness of the people!” At least two commentators, Jameson-Faucett Brown and Matthew Poole think the “wilderness of the people” means the places where the LORD has driven them among the nations. These nations among whom the Jews are scattered is to them most certainly, a wilderness. Who among us has not been in a great city where were multiplied thousands of people yet with all those people about us, we felt very alone and distraught. This explanation of the wilderness of the people may very well be true in the sense that God puts in Israel’s minds and hearts the thought going to the land of their Fathers – for most of them, a land they have never seen. In God’s dealing with them, we are told that the

LORD causes them to *"pass under the rod, and brings them into the bond of the covenant: And purges out from among them, and them that transgress against him: He will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the LORD."* (**Ezekiel 20:38**). This means the rebels will not come back to Israel. Remember, that when all these return to the land, two parts of them shall be cut off and die. The LORD will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried; and they (the one third) shall call on His name, and He will hear them: The LORD will say, It is my people: and they shall say, the LORD is my God." (**Ezekiel 13:8-9**). Thus all Israel is saved – not every individual of the nation without exception, but all the nation.

And I will bring you into the bond of the covenant:
-- This will occur in the land as we see in the very first verse of chapter 13.

Into the bond of the covenant? What covenant is this? It is not the law covenant, but the new covenant. Let's consider that:

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (KJV) *Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: **32** Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: **33** But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days,*

*saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. **34** And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.*

When did the new covenant become effective to Israel and Judah? I am convinced it was when the gospel came in the New Testament (Covenant)? In the beginning of the record of the New Testament (another word for Covenant), the Lord Jesus Christ sought only the lost sheep of the house of Israel? Neither he nor his apostles went into the way of the gentiles or the Samaritans. He specifically sent his apostles to the lost sheep of the house of Israel as their first preaching endeavor. The record shows that those who believed the gospel of the kingdom, were baptized and brought into the church at Jerusalem. All the apostles, the other seventy, the women, and others who believed and were brought into the church at Jerusalem were all of Israel. At that time, there was no gentiles or Samaritans in the Jerusalem church. This is the way it began. Samaritans came later when Philip went down to Samaria and preached Christ unto them. The gentiles followed the Samaritans when the gentile household of Cornelius sent for and heard words whereby they would be saved from the Apostle Peter. The Holy Ghost fell on them and they were baptized as recorded in the 10th chapter of Acts. The covenant belonged to Judah and Israel, but this preacher believes it is manifestly true that the Samaritans and Gentiles were graft into the blessings of the root and fatness of Israel – into the covenant as explained in the 11th chapter of Romans. Notice this passage which tells us plainly that Israel is the nation with whom the LORD dealt and none other. The promises were to them – the

adoption, the glory, and the covenants; the giving of the law, the service of God whose are the fathers and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came.

Romans 9:3-5 (KJV) *For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: **4** Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; **5** Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.*

Let us remember that we, as gentiles, were strangers from the covenants of promise.

Ephesians 2:11-13 (KJV) *Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; **12** That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: **13** But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.*

Let us see why I say this new covenant is the same as the New Testament. The term "New Testament" means "New Covenant" – for the word testament is another word for covenant. It definitely began to be fulfilled to the believing remnant of Israel at the first coming of Christ. This is the blessing of the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. And shall be completely fulfilled to all Israel when they are gathered from the nations and are brought back to their land in unbelief? The book of Hebrews was written to show the Holy

Brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling the superiority of Christ and the truth of a better covenant. In it we read of a better hope, a better covenant, better promises, and a better sacrifice. Listen to these words to the holy brethren, the partakers of the heavenly calling from the letter to the Hebrews:

Hebrews 8:7-12 (KJV) *For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. **8** For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: **9** Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. **10** For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: **11** And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. **12** For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.*

O, brethren, we have two witnesses to the New Covenant in this glorious letter to the Hebrews. Is it not true that the witness of two is true? Read with me.

Hebrews 10:12-17 (KJV) *But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; **13** From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. **14** For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. **15** Whereof the*

*Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, **16** This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; **17** And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.*

The New Covenant is a unilateral covenant. God dictated the terms and he, himself fulfils it all in the recipients of the New Covenant. Notice why and how He does that with Israel upon their return to the land in unbelief.

Ezekiel 36:22-28 (KJV) *Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went. 23 And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, saith the Lord GOD, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes. 24 For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. 25 Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. 26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. 28 And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.*

I have seen many go to this passage to prove this is the way God deals with us gentiles. The primary application of this is to Israel.

It is true that we were dealt with in the same way when the LORD brought us to repentance and faith in Christ. Please notice these passages concerning Israel.

Ezekiel 39:29 (KJV) *Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.*

Romans 11:25-27 (KJV) *For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. **26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: 27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.***

Does this sound familiar? Do you, who now are believing in the name of the only begotten Son of the living God remember a time when the LORD caused you to see the one who was pierced for your sins? How he caused you, as he shall cause the nation of Israel, to mourn for him and be in bitterness for him. Remember how you saw yourself a desperate and undone sinner in the eyes of a Holy God. Blessed day it was for all of us when we first believed on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ – and because we believed, we did as the scripture says, we called on him. We prayed to him – not in order to believe, but because we did believe already. We had heard how Christ died for the ungodly. We heard how God loved the world. We understood that God has set his everlasting love on us. Brethren, we believed the glorious news of free grace. We understood things were far differently – we had passed from death unto life. We believed and so shall never come into condemnation. Beloved, Christ paid for every sin we committed or shall commit in

our life. And, bless the name of Jehovah, He is merciful to our unrighteousness and shall remember our sins and iniquities no more! Hallelujah! No more shall He remember them! It is against Him that we sinned and come short – and because of Jesus Christ's blessed sacrifice as the minister of the New Covenant which is the same as the everlasting covenant, God shall remember our sins and iniquities no more!!